

**N.Y.S. ASSEMBLY PROPOSALS
FOR
EXECUTIVE BUDGET RESUBMISSION**

Fiscal Year April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

SHELDON SILVER
Speaker of the Assembly

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Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means

N.Y.S. ASSEMBLY PROPOSALS FOR EXECUTIVE BUDGET RESUBMISSION

Summary

Article 7 of the New York Constitution, as interpreted by the courts, limits the Legislature's response to the Executive's budget bills. The Legislature may not extricate discrete language or otherwise alter an item of appropriation except to strike, reduce or add separate appropriations to each appropriation bill. No such strictures apply to "proposed legislation" introduced by the Governor as part of his budget submission. The Assembly has amended the Executive's proposed appropriations consistent with such constraints. Where the content of the submitted appropriations clearly and intentionally pre-empts any assertion of Legislative prerogatives or legal policy judgments, the Assembly addresses the issue in a resolution. The resolution, which supplements the Assembly's constitutional alterations of the Executive's budget in the accompanying budget bills, is the Assembly's expression of its positions concerning provisions which are technically unalterable but must be addressed in the budget negotiation process.

These include appropriations which: (1) amend or circumvent existing state law; (2) vest ultimate dispositional authority in an unelected Director of the Budget; (3) contain a single, unsegregated lump-sum for a variety of discrete, unrelated projects, some of which are acceptable, others of which are objectionable; or (4) are drafted in a manner that precludes the Legislature from undertaking meaningful review and comment consistent with its constitutional obligations. In the identified circumstances, the Legislature's proposed alterations to Executive budget bills may only be effectuated by Executive resubmission of those bills with amendments.

Where the Governor "Notwithstands" Existing Statutory Law

The Governor's appropriations for the following agencies would modify and circumvent existing state law in many crucial respects. The Governor's submission of appropriations in such format precludes the Legislature from meaningfully addressing ad hoc changes to New York law which have been integrated into appropriations. In response, the Assembly has set forth its proposed alternatives to the Executive's appropriations in this resolution for the following:

- Department of Correctional Services (Camp Pharsalia);
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Pure Waters Bond Act and Environmental Quality Bond Act Repeals);
- General State Charges (Payment of Medicare Part B Premiums);
- General State Charges (Health Insurance Fund Dividends); and
- Higher Education Services Corporation (Tuition Assistance Program).

Where the Governor Vests Broad Discretion in the Director of the Budget

All or part of the Governor's appropriations for the following agencies would vest extensive discretion in the Division of the Budget or its Director to determine the programs for which such funds should be expended and how such programs must be operated. The Legislature may not modify such authority when contained in appropriation language which vests the unelected Director of the Budget with broad discretion which, constitutionally, belongs with the Legislature. Therefore, the Assembly has set forth its alternative to the Executive's appropriation in this resolution for the following:

- Department of Environmental Conservation (Environmental Protection Fund); and
- State Education Department (Sound Basic Education).

Where the Governor Proposes an Undifferentiated Lump-Sum Appropriation

The Governor has proposed, among other items for the following agencies, a single, lump-sum appropriation that covers a myriad of discrete, often unrelated programs and services. The Assembly believes that some of these programs should not be funded at all and that others are being funded at an inappropriately high level. Because the Executive has so framed his appropriation, it is insulated from Legislative modification. The Legislature may not break such appropriation up into its constituent elements. If it wishes to add to a single program or provide for a new program, it must accept the entire lump-sum as proposed along with such programs as it may otherwise find objectionable. Therefore, the Assembly has set forth its alternative to the Executive's appropriation in this resolution for the following:

- Department of Environmental Conservation (Environmental Protection Fund);
- Department of Motor Vehicles (Capital Projects Transportation Support);
- Division of Criminal Justice Services (Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Funding);
- General State Charges (Pension Reform Task Force); and
- Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Block Grant).

Where the Governor Proposes an Item that Cannot Be “Substituted” for Another

The Governor has proposed appropriations for the following agencies for a general purpose that the Assembly supports subsumed within an ineffectually- or inefficiently-crafted program. However, the Legislature cannot simply supplant faulty policy decisions or ineffective funding methodology by re-crafting appropriations for the same core purposes. Therefore, the Assembly has set forth its alternative to the Executive’s appropriation in this resolution for the following:

- Department of Environmental Conservation (Pure Waters Bond Act and Environmental Quality Bond Act);
- Department of Labor (Systems Modernization);
- Department of Health (Nursing Home Rebased);
- Division of Criminal Justice Services (Operation IMPACT);
- Division of State Police (Expanded DNA Collection);
- Misc. Public Protection and General Government (Aid and Incentives to Municipalities);
- Misc. Public Protection and General Government (Shared Municipal Services Incentive Program);
- Misc. Public Protection and General Government (Authority Budget Office);
- NYS Energy Research & Development Authority (Energy Efficiency and Conservation);
- Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (Funding For-Profit Providers);
- Office of the Medicaid Inspector General;
- Office of Mental Health (Facility Adaptation);
- Office for Technology (Consolidated Data Facility);
- State Board of Elections (Help American Vote Act funds);
- Transportation, Economic Development & Environmental Conservation (Tribal State Compact); and
- Urban Development Corporation (General Funding for Jobs and Development).

Where the Governor Has Circumscribed Several Appropriations With Extraneous Language

The Governor has proposed appropriations for the following agency that are mandated to be spent in a manner which is not subject to any legislative review. Indeed, each budget bill is replete with so-called “header” language (the bulk of which is not specifically addressed here) that governs numerous separate items of appropriation to which it collectively refers. To address the implanting of such language within an appropriation bill but not within any item of appropriation, the Assembly has set forth its alternative to the Executive’s appropriation in this resolution for the following:

- Department of Correctional Services (Limitation on use of funds for Camp Pharsalia).

**N.Y.S. ASSEMBLY PROPOSALS
FOR EXECUTIVE BUDGET RESUBMISSION
State Fiscal Year 2006-07**

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ASSEMBLY PROPOSALS

SFY 2006-07

Legislative Proposals

Community Treatment Services

The Assembly proposes that the additional expenses appropriated for community treatment programs not be redirected, as called for by the Executive, to for-profit entities, but should continue to support not-for-profit and municipal entities that take over management of certified treatment providers that either surrender their operating certificates voluntarily or are placed in receivership.

Legislative Changes

Header Language

The Assembly rejects the "header language" in the appropriations for the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS). The language notwithstanding the Correction Law and subjects the entire DOCS appropriation to the condition that spending in support of the Camp Pharsalia correctional facility shall be authorized "only to the extent that such expenditures are required under a plan...for closure of the facility in connection with preparing the site for reuse as an office of mental health facility for the confinement of sexually violent predators."

Legislative Proposals

Camp Pharsalia

The Assembly appropriates \$5,200,000 to deny the transfer of Camp Pharsalia to the Office of Mental Health and to allow DOCS to continue to utilize the facility as a minimum security correctional facility for the incarceration of persons sentenced to the custody of DOCS throughout SFY 2006-07.

DENIAL OF CLOSURE - CAMP PHARSALIA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

\$5,200,000

ST/GEN

Legislative Proposals

Operation IMPACT

The Executive proposal includes and the Assembly would appropriate \$15,459,000 to support Operation IMPACT. However, the Assembly would qualify the appropriation by making any future increase in funding contingent upon the submission of a report by the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) which details the effectiveness of this program no later than September 31, 2006.

Edward Byrne

The Assembly proposes that the \$7,700,000 appropriation for the Edward Byrne Memorial Account include a sub-schedule to program such funds in the same manner as in previous State fiscal years, allocating funding to the Executive, the Assembly and the Senate for support of effective anti-drug, anti-violence, crime control, prevention and treatment programs.

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL GRANT ACCOUNT APPROPRIATION - AID TO LOCALITIES \$7,700,000 ATL/SRF

Legislative Proposals

Sound Basic Education (SBE)

The Assembly objects to the language in the appropriation for SBE that gives the Director of the Division of the Budget broad discretion to direct funding for education pursuant to a plan which the Director develops and approves. Further, the Executive has stated that the distribution of SBE will be identical to that of last year.

Legislative Proposals

Help America Vote Act

The Assembly would reprogram the Executive's \$10,000,000 appropriation to the State Board of Elections under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) to localities for services and expenses related to the implementation of HAVA. Such funds would be allocated to local boards of elections in proportion to the percentage of the state's registered voters residing in each local board's jurisdiction on December 31, 2005.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002

\$10,000,000

ATL/SRF

Legislative Proposals

Renewable Energy

The Assembly reprograms \$50,000,000 in capital funds for certain renewable energy projects proposed by the Executive within the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) budget to be used instead to supplement and enhance existing energy efficiency and energy conservation capital programs.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION CAPITAL

\$50,000,000

CAPITAL

Legislative Proposals

Pure Waters Bond Act and Environmental Quality Bond Act Repeals

The Assembly proposes that the reappropriations for various water quality improvement projects not contain the Executive's repeal of reappropriation authority for wastewater treatment projects in New York City.

Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)

The Assembly proposes that the \$180,000,000 appropriation for the EPF be increased to \$200,000,000, and reprogrammed as set forth below in a detailed allocation schedule.

Funding for new categories within the EPF, including the Oceans and Great Lakes category, Water Quality Improvement category and Invasive Species category, is contingent upon a \$50,000,000 increase in the permanent dedication of Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) revenues for the EPF beginning in SFY 2007-08.

The Assembly would allocate the \$200,000,000 for the EPF as follows:

Solid Waste Account

- \$9,000,000 for municipal recycling projects;
- \$9,000,000 for secondary markets projects;
- \$1,300,000 for natural resource damages associated with the Hudson River;
- \$2,475,000 for the pesticides program; and
- \$3,000,000 for landfill closures.

Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Account

- \$22,250,000 for local waterfront revitalization projects;
- \$22,315,000 for municipal parks, recreation and historic preservation projects;
- \$ 5,000,000 for the Hudson River Park Trust; and
- \$ 6,000,000 for Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquaria.

Open Space Account

- \$60,000,000 for land acquisition;
- \$ 3,000,000 for quality communities grants;
- \$22,000,000 for agricultural and farmland protection;
- \$ 5,000,000 for management of the Hudson River estuary;
- \$ 1,000,000 for biodiversity stewardship and research;
- \$13,300,000 for non-point source pollution abatement and control projects;
- \$ 2,310,000 for Soil and Water Conservation Districts;

- \$ 1,750,000 for Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance;
- \$ 1,500,000 for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission;
- \$ 1,100,000 for the Long Island Pine Barrens Planning Commission;
- \$ 700,000 for the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve;
- \$ 2,000,000 for invasive species;
- \$ 5,000,000 for water quality improvement projects; and
- \$ 1,000,000 for Oceans and Great Lakes.

Within the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Account, the Assembly requires that 25 percent of the funds for municipal parks and local waterfront revitalization projects be dedicated for projects located in urban underserved communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND

\$200,000,000

CAPITAL

GENERAL STATE CHARGES

Pension Reform Task Force

The Assembly rejects the Executive's proposal to establish a New York State Pension Reform Task Force. The Assembly strikes \$100,000 for the Task Force from the \$949,009,000 appropriation which includes both the State's contribution to the employees' retirement system and the Task Force funding. The Assembly is precluded from eliminating the Task Force because it is included within this appropriation language.

Medicare Part B Premiums

The Assembly objects to the Executive action circumventing existing law which mandates only employers pay for Medicare Part B premiums.

Health Insurance Fund Dividends

The Assembly objects to the Governor's circumvention of section 167 of the Civil Service Law related to the State's contribution to the Health Insurance Fund and proposes that the Executive abide by its terms.

Legislative Proposals

Nursing Home Rebasing

The Assembly objects to programmatic language in the appropriation bill relating to nursing home rebasing which precludes the Assembly from adding accountability language.

Legislative Proposals

Tuition Assistance Program

The Assembly objects to the proposed Executive appropriation for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) which would significantly alter the legally-prescribed criteria under which TAP is to operate and intentionally underfund the program. TAP has been a long-standing, successful program with carefully crafted standards for eligibility and continuing participation. The Executive budget proposal would create different criteria than those provided by law for TAP, thereby depriving many legally-eligible students of needed tuition assistance.

Rectifying the Executive effort to radically alter and underfund TAP requires that the Assembly first enact the proposed appropriation and then add a separately-stated appropriation of \$119,400,000.

Legislative Changes

Unemployment Insurance Systems Modernization

The Assembly would reduce the Executive's appropriation to provide transfers from several special revenue funds to be used for Unemployment Insurance Systems Modernization which is contained in larger lump-sum appropriations for the Department of Labor.

Legislative Proposals

Medicaid Auditors and Medicaid Fraud, Waste & Abuse Detection and Prevention

The Assembly proposes to reprogram the Governor's proposal to spend \$5,000,000 on contracts with the State University of New York or its Research Foundation for related services, and provide instead for the hiring of new Medicaid auditors, and add an additional \$5,000,000 for services and expenses related to improved reporting and system performance in regard to Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse detection and prevention activities.

HIRING NEW MEDICAID AUDITORS	\$5,000,000	ST/GEN
MEDICAID FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE DETECTION AND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES - IMPROVED REPORTING AND SYSTEM PERFORMANCE	\$5,000,000	ST/GEN

Legislative Proposals

Civil Confinement

The Assembly would fund the adaptation of 641 beds for the placement of violent sexual predators. The Assembly believes, however, that placement of 80 of these beds in the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center and 55 of these beds in the Rochester Psychiatric Center is inappropriate and would direct the Office of Mental Health, in consultation with the Legislature, to designate alternative sites which would allow for the secure confinement and treatment of these offenders in more appropriate facilities and locations.

Legislative Proposals

Aid & Incentives for Municipalities (AIM)

The Assembly proposes to reprogram the Executive's proposed appropriation language for the general fund appropriation of \$48,100,000 for AIM Additional Apportionment to Cities in order to restore AIM Aid to its traditional basis as an unrestricted program by making each city's additional apportionment free of any actions to receive the aid and free of any restrictions on its usage.

Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) Program

The Assembly proposes to reprogram the Executive's proposed appropriation for the Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) Awards Program to ensure more specificity in the process under which these awards are granted, including but not limited to, the requirements that shared services represent only those services that would otherwise be individually provided by each municipality and that demonstrable financial savings result, with additional rules and regulations for implementation.

Authority Budget Office

The Assembly rejects the Executive proposal to establish the Authority Budget Office created by section 27 of chapter 766 of the laws of 2005 within the Division of Budget. The Assembly proposes that the Authority Budget Office be an independent office subject only to a commission or other entity that would be charged with supervisory responsibility to improve the management and operations of public authorities in the state.

MISCELLANEOUS: TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Legislative Proposals

Tribal State Compact

The Assembly would strike the reference to USA Niagara Development Corporation contained in appropriation and reappropriation language and reprogram the local share of state revenues from the Niagara Falls Gaming Facility to the host municipality, the City of Niagara Falls as required by law.

The Assembly would strike the reference to the Empire State Development Corporation contained in appropriation language and reprogram the local share of state revenues from the St. Regis Mohawk Gaming Facility to the counties of Franklin and St. Lawrence and their affected towns as required by law.

TRIBAL STATE COMPACT - NIAGARA FALLS LOCAL SHARE	\$23,927,000	ATL/SRO
TRIBAL STATE COMPACT - NIAGARA FALLS LOCAL SHARE	\$11,000,000	ATL/SRO
TRIBAL STATE COMPACT - ST REGIS LOCAL SHARE	\$1,175,000	ATL/SRO

Legislative Changes

DNA

The Assembly supports the appropriation of funds to collect DNA samples from an expanded number of criminal offenders, however, the Assembly believes that any expansion in the number of offenders subject to inclusion in the DNA identification index should be authorized by law, rather than through an administrative regulation.

Legislative Changes

Data Center

The Assembly reduces the Executive's \$75,000,000 appropriation to a level of \$1,000,000, which would be reprogrammed for a consolidated data center for a study that provides a detailed analysis of the State's server environments resulting in specific recommendations for consolidating agency data centers into a single, optimized architecture. The funding provided would be contingent upon an Executive resubmission of appropriation language exclusively related to the consolidation study.

Legislative Changes

Pilot for Non-Custodial Parents

The Assembly rejects the Executive proposal to create a five-county pilot program for non-custodial parents. The Assembly reduces the General Fund appropriation within the Temporary and Disability Assistance Program that contains \$3,000,000 in funding for this initiative, but cannot remove the appropriation language establishing this project because it is contained within a larger appropriation.

Legislative Proposals

Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant

Because the Executive’s TANF appropriation of \$2.487 billion is a single unsegregated lump-sum, the Assembly cannot constitutionally reprogram any portion of it. As a result, without resubmission, it is not possible for the Assembly to counterpropose a more effective plan to direct the full amount of TANF funds. Therefore, the Assembly provides \$1.317 billion in appropriation authority for public assistance benefits, certain State Operations costs, and General Fund offset spending on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child and Dependent Care Credit (CDCC), and reprograms the remaining available TANF funds as follows:

– Flexible Fund for Family Services \$600,000,000

The Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) is a block grant that is allocated to local social services districts to provide funding for TANF eligible programs and services at local discretion.

– Child Care Investments \$423,000,000

The State’s Child Care Block Grant supports child care subsidies for public assistance recipients, families transitioning from welfare to work, and other low-income working families. Funding is transferred from TANF to the State’s Child Care Block Grant to provide additional child care subsidies, to continue the operation of demonstration projects, and to provide additional support for child care at SUNY and CUNY.

– Services and Health Initiatives \$116,070,000

Programs included within this category are designed to address health and wellness concerns of the target population, as well as to provide services to enhance educational or employment opportunities. Programs provide services such as food support for individuals and families, and summer employment opportunities for youth across the State. In addition, other programs within this category provide after school services and early intervention services for at-risk young families.

These programs are vital for helping individuals obtain employment and ensuring that children are safe and healthy.

– Legislative Initiatives \$68,188,000

This category includes programs established by the Legislature to provide a variety of additional services to help low-income families overcome barriers to work and self-sufficiency. These initiatives are aimed at reducing homelessness, improving literacy and technology skills, supporting families at-risk of involvement in the child welfare system, and ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive appropriate services and supports. This category also includes a new initiative that would provide intensive case services, including home visits, to address the barriers to employment of families in sanctioned status.

– Employment and Transitional Initiatives \$ 20,953,000

Programs in this category provide employment training and other assistance for individuals as they transition to self-sufficiency. Employment services provide work-based training, employment, and post-employment services in selected educational and training centers across the State. Services are also included in this category to ensure that employment related transportation needs are met for low-income families.

FLEXIBLE FUND FOR FAMILY SERVICES	\$600,000,000	ATL/SRF
CHILD CARE INVESTMENTS	\$423,000,000	ATL/SRF
SERVICES AND HEALTH INITIATIVES	\$116,070,000	ATL/SRF
LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES	\$68,188,000	ATL/SRF
EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICES	\$20,953,000	ATL/SRF

Legislative Proposals

Jobs Plan

The Assembly would reprogram the Governor's \$71,912,000 appropriation for Jobs Now, Empire State Economic Development, and Centers of Excellence programs and supplement such reprogrammed amount to implement a more effective Strategic Plan for Economic Growth.

I. Enhancing Regional Economies

The Assembly would appropriate \$49,400,000 to fund initiatives that will emphasize programs linking research and development funding to jobs in new industries as well as the programs that would modernize traditional industries to increase competitiveness:

A. Economic Resurgence Capital Program

The Assembly would create the Economic Resurgence Program to provide \$200 million in capital projects support for economic development initiatives including high technology, workforce development, automotive, manufacturing, agricultural, including greenhouses, tourism destination facilities, industrial facilities, business parks, former military installations, incubators, downtown and rural commercial center projects.

B. Regional Industry Clusters Development

The Assembly would fund the development of regional industry clusters to capitalize on strategic industries within the various regions to enhance competitive advantages and promote the expansion of firms working within the strategic industries of an area.

C. Regional Workforce Training Alignment

The Assembly would fund the alignment and integration of various workforce training resources within regions to provide enhanced skills training to meet the practical needs of local industry.

D. Regional Research and Development Collaboration & Alignment

The Assembly would increase State investments in university-industry research alliances to further initiate Research and Development programs through the Foundation's Regional Partnership program, which would support programs administered by the Office of Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR) as well as the Centers of Excellence to be coordinated through the Regional Partnership Program.

E. Regional Business Attraction and Retention

The Assembly would fund regional initiatives that coordinate and target available business assistance programs in order to customize efforts that are focused on the needs, strengths and strategic industries of the particular regions. This program would be administered by the regional partnerships program within the Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation.

F. Export Assistance

The Assembly would aid small firms that take advantage of the export market, distinguishing between export promotion and the direct export assistance small businesses may need.

G. Regional Trade Promotion & Business Formation

The Assembly would fund regional trade promotion and business formation by supporting regional efforts that promote trade and create business opportunities for local firms. Such funding could be used to support the activities of regional trade associations or their business promotion activities.

II. Marketing New York More Effectively

The Assembly would appropriate \$13,000,000 to coordinate and facilitate regional marketing efforts to develop a cohesive campaign focused on attracting visitors and to promote business opportunities as follows:

A. Regional Branding Initiatives

The Assembly would fund regional branding initiatives to assist efforts focused on marketing unique attributes and establishing a “brand identity” for the regions across the State.

B. Marketing the New York State of Innovation

The Assembly would fund the creation of a New York State of Innovation campaign focused on burnishing New York's image as an originator of discovery.

C. Marketing New York State Diversity

The Assembly would fund marketing initiatives that would reinforce New York's image and attractiveness to newcomers.

D. Tourism Promotion

The Assembly would fund tourism that would regionalize the Local Matching Grants program administered by the Empire State Development Corporation, define new thematically based tourism regions, and create an I LOVE NY program that would market the State to other states and nations.

III. Supporting Microenterprise and Entrepreneurship

The Assembly would appropriate \$8,500,000 to create a program fostering the growth of microenterprises and entrepreneurships through the following programs:

A. Microenterprise Venture Development

The Assembly would fund venture capital funding that would assist microenterprise and entrepreneurial ventures by providing initial start up costs.

B. Microenterprise Low Interest Loan Program

The Assembly would fund a low interest loan program for microenterprises and entrepreneurial businesses.

C. Microenterprise Technical Assistance Program

The Assembly would fund microenterprise technical assistance initiatives that would focus on assisting microenterprise entrepreneurs in confronting the requirements of starting successful business.

D. Microenterprise Training Program

The Assembly would fund training microenterprises on the essential aspects of business management.

E. Entrepreneurial Assistance Program

The Assembly would provide \$2,000,000 to the Entrepreneurial Assistance Program (EAP) which would be directed through the Minority and Women Owned Business Development Lending Program (MWBDLP), to assist entrepreneurs in building new businesses, and provide assistance to minorities, women and dislocated workers interested in starting a business.

IV. Promoting Growth in New York's Distressed Communities

The Assembly would appropriate \$10,000,000 for communities to develop their unique and distinct characteristics through the following initiatives:

A. Flexible Manufacturing Networks

The Assembly would support flexible manufacturing and small business networking initiatives including economic development programs focusing on the development of strategic industry clusters and the creation of industry associations within these clusters to facilitate cooperation and shared problem solving.

B. Small Manufacturer and Niche Markets

The Assembly would establish a Small Manufacturer and Niche Markets Program to support outreach to the small business sector, thereby building upon such successful programs as those run by the New York Industrial Retention Network.

C. Historical & Cultural Marketing Initiatives

The Assembly would support the marketing efforts of institutions of historical and cultural significance, focusing on those institutions linked by historical events that can operate together and promote themselves collectively, as thematic destinations for out-of-state travelers.

D. Incubator/Shared Use Facility Program

The Assembly would establish a kitchen incubator/shared use facility program to develop or expand food production. It would also authorize grants to local development corporations, municipalities, educational facilities, and not-for-profit organizations for technical assistance, business management, marketing, distribution, storage and retailing assistance.

E. Locally Grown/Locally Known

The Assembly would fund a campaign to promote and market the State's bounty of "locally grown, locally known" agriculture products and assist in the development of new domestic and international markets.

F. Minority and Women-Owned Business Development Loan Program (MWBDLP)

This Assembly would provide \$3,500,000 for its MWBDLP which, among other activities, supports a network of 22 EAP centers and provides an entry point for participation in the Excelsior Linked-Deposit Program, to assist minority- and women-owned business entrepreneurs.

G. Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs)

The Assembly would appropriate \$1,000,000 in support to be directed to the CDFI program through the MWBDLP. CDFIs are not-for-profit financial institutions that make loans and investments in areas underserved by banks — usually urban and rural communities. They include community investment banks, credit unions, loan funds, microenterprise funds and venture capital funds.

H. Linked Deposit Loans

The Assembly would appropriate \$525,000 for the Excelsior Linked Deposit Program (LDP) which provides small businesses access to capital through “linked loans” and recommends the inclusion of credit unions in the LDP to assist those small businesses who have been turned down by traditional lending institutions.

I. Main Street Redevelopment

The Assembly would continue funding technical and financial assistance to local economic development entities engaging in activities that are targeted toward improving the viability of downtown commercial areas in economically distressed communities.

J. Empire Zone Local Administrators

The Assembly would restore State funding for local Empire Zone Administration.

K. Governor’s Island Preservation and Education Corporation

The Assembly would fund the Governor’s Island Preservation and Education Corporation, however, the Assembly would require an open decision making process including community participation to ensure the preservation of open space.

V. Harnessing the Power of Technology as a Driver of Economic Growth

The Assembly would fund the following programs to provide assistance for the development of technological advancements:

A. Technology Commercialization

The Assembly would fund lab-based commercialization enhancement and pre-venture product and business development at facilities that would be equipped with high-tech resources appropriate for different technology sectors, including biotechnology, nanotechnology, bioinformatics, software design, and other advanced technologies.

B. Investing in New York's Higher Education System

The Assembly would appropriate \$651,000,000 in new capital support for the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY) to advance research, and to further fund these entities.

C. Promoting Energy Efficiency and Conservation

The Assembly would fund the supplementing and the enhancing of existing energy efficiency and conservation programs including, but not limited to the funding of conducting additional energy efficiency audits and energy conservation feasibility studies.

D. Centers of Excellence

The Assembly recommends the designation of up to two additional Centers of Excellence in regions of the State that currently lack the necessary infrastructure to turn high tech academic research into commercial opportunity through collaborations among government, academia and industry.

E. Innovation and Accountability Board

The Assembly recommends the creation of the Innovation and Accountability Board to assess the value of the State's investments in academic research and development, including the Centers of Excellence. In addition, the Assembly would authorize the Innovation and Accountability Board to review all State supported high tech programs and provide recommendations concerning the relative success of each program. Finally, the Assembly authorizes the Innovation and Accountability Board to identify areas in which the Centers of Excellence may enter into cooperative agreements to conduct mutually beneficial commercialization projects.

VI. Skills Training, Employment and Vocational Education Program

The Assembly provides \$30,500,000 for the creation of the Skills Training, Employment and Vocational Education Program which includes the following elements:

A. School to Work

The Assembly would fund School to Work programs that encourage schools to develop structured programs that open opportunities for youth in various fields including science, technology, and community service

B. Rediscover Vocational Ed

The Assembly would fund investment in vocational education, apprenticeships and support programs that train individuals for occupations that do not require a post-secondary education.

C. Four Year Colleges & Universities

The Assembly would fund initiatives that link employers to campuses and bring the advantage of practical application to the classroom.

D. Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC's)

The Assembly would appropriate supplemental funds to allow Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs), a successful Assembly initiative providing job training and educational services to roughly 20,000 low-income New Yorkers at 11 sites across the State, to develop more classroom sites at community centers and in public housing developments.

E. Apprenticeships

The Assembly would fund post-graduate level apprenticeships and work study programs that enable students to graduate with a degree and "hands-on" experience.

F. ManuTech

The Assembly proposes to create ManuTech, a program that would be administered through a partnership of labor, community colleges, and employers to meet the demand for training at the workplace for employers adjusting to the requirements of new technologies.

G. Community Colleges

The Assembly would fund the alignment of SUNY and CUNY community colleges with high-tech industry clusters and academic research institutions. It will develop specialized curricula in order to meet the needs of emerging businesses for technicians and other skilled workers.

NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC RESURGENCE CAPITAL FUND
ASSEMBLY STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ECONOMIC RESURGENCE

\$200,000,000 CAPITAL
\$71,912,000 ATL/GEN